

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2003

The Honorable Tom Ridge
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Ridge:

As members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation, we are writing to express our disappointment with the Department's recent decision to exclude the City of Boston from the list of large urban areas that will receive approximately \$100 million in FY 2003 funding through the Department's Urban Security Initiative.

We believe that Boston, which will be forever linked to the tragedy of September 11, requires additional funding to reduce its vulnerability to future terrorist attacks. As you know, both of the planes that were flown into the World Trade Center Towers originated from Boston's Logan Airport. Two of the hijackers – Ahmed Alghamdi and Saeed Alghamdi – resided in Massachusetts. It has been reported that an Al Qaeda terrorist cell operated within the Commonwealth, and past addresses for the two Al Qaeda hijackers included several cities and towns surrounding Boston.

Boston is home to industries that are vital to the economic health of Massachusetts and the entire six-state New England region. Leading financial services firms, world-renown health care facilities, and educational institutions that attract students from countries around the world all are based in Boston. As the center of the seventh-largest metropolitan area in the country, Boston generates an economic dynamism that drives commercial activities not only around the state and region, but also around the world. The city's busy cargo port contributes to this dynamism.

Boston also contains vital public infrastructure, such as the nation's oldest subway system, an extensive network of highway tunnels, and the only urban liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal in the country. The city also will host the Democratic National Convention in 2004. This high-profile event will present another array of challenges for first responders within the city and across the state. It is essential that the city begin receiving funds through the Urban Area Security Initiative now, so that the extensive preparation needed to protect critical sites can be undertaken as soon as possible.

We understand that the Department utilized criteria that included a number of factors, including population density and a threat assessment, to determine which cities would receive this additional funding. Specifically, the conference report for the Fiscal Year 2003 omnibus appropriations bill directed the Department to consider these factors

when making funding decisions under the Initiative: credible threat vulnerability, presence of infrastructure of national importance, population, and identified needs of the jurisdiction's public safety agencies. We believe that Boston, for the reasons discussed above, should be included on the list of large urban areas that receive supplemental funding through the Department's Urban Security Initiative.

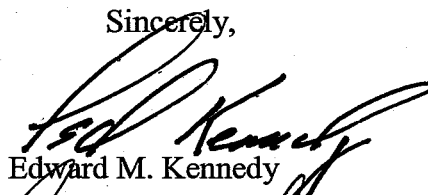
We request that the Department provide us with information about why Boston was excluded from the list of urban areas that received \$100 million as part of the Urban Area Security Initiative. Please inform us about whether the same criteria used to determine funding under the Initiative will be used to make decisions about further grants. If it will, please provide us with the information about these criteria. If other criteria will be utilized, please provide us information about the nature of these criteria.

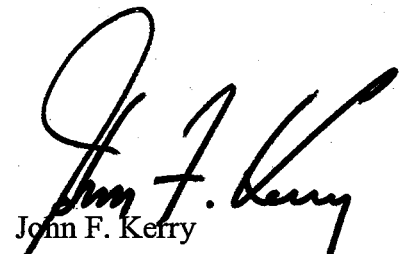
We understand that the Fiscal Year 2003 supplemental appropriation bill contains additional funding for high threat urban areas. We request that the Department, in dispersing future funds to cities through the Urban Area Security Initiative, include significant funding for Boston, which already has proven vulnerable to infiltration by terrorists.

We appreciate the Department's consideration of our request and look forward to its response. Please provide the response within ten working days, or no later than April 24, 2003. If you have questions about this correspondence, please have a member of your staff contact Mr. Mark Bayer in Representative Markey's office at 202-225-2836.

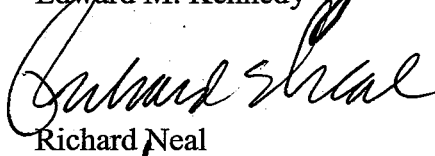
Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey

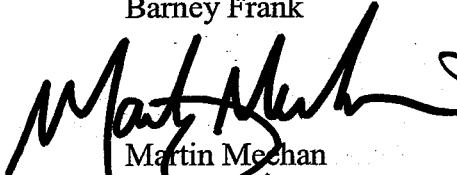

Edward M. Kennedy

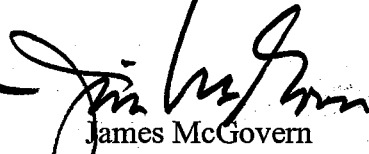

John F. Kerry


Barney Frank

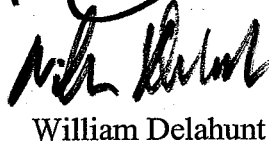

Richard Neal

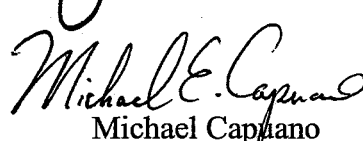

John Olver

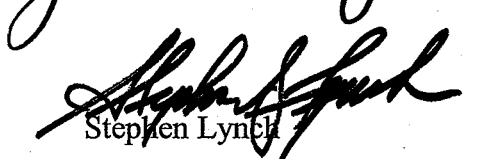

Martin Mehan


James McGovern


John Tierney


William Delahunt


Michael Capuano


Stephen Lynch